NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

NOTES ON NEW BOOKS.

LECTURES ON THE TRUE, THE BEAUTIFUL, AND THE GOOD. By Victor Cousin. Increased by an appendix on French Art. Translated, with the approbation of M. Cousin, by O. W. WIGHT. New York: D. Appleton &

VICTOR COUSIN is no more "the first philosopher of France," as Sir Wm. Hamilton declares, than the first of her writers. The master of a style at once sprightly and vigorous, he has been able to popularize the dryest and most recondite speculations of philosophy, and by the charm of a fluent and graceful diction to inspire a warmth and a beau-ty in the cold and comfortless abstractions of metaphysics. His writings are conspicuous for a certain setteté of thought and a clearness of expression which illustrate the admirable union of accurate thinking and accurate writing; and, indeed, it may be broadly asserted that these two attributes are always found in combination, the one subtending the other as if by a necessity as universal and inevitable as that which obtains in the relations of a mathematical figure. The man who is teres atque rotundus in his style of thought will always be terse and finished in his style of expression; for, in the words of Pascal, "as you study the author you perceive the

Mr. Wight, we are glad to say, has greatly improved as a translator since we last had occasion to examine his efforts in this department of literary i ndustry. His version of "The Course of the History of Modern Philosophy," published nearly two years ago, was so interlarded with Gallicisms that it required one to be moderately versed in French in order to comprehend the full thought of the author. Dr. Johnson used to say that translation was the bane of language; and when we see the affectations and cumbrous interpolations which have been "traduced" from the French or "overset" from the German, to the great confusion of our English Idiom, we are constrained to think that the Doctor was not altogether mistaken in his idea; and, besides, no one illustrates its truth more forcibly than himself, mounted, as he always is, on the stilts of a sesquipedalian and Latinized diction. It is our firm conviction that the language of Shakspeare and of Milton, of Barrow and of Addison, is quite adequate to express all that is worth knowing in either French or German prose. In poetry, where it is otherwise; but this exception will hold good only of German poetry. It is the function of the translator to reproduce the thought of his author without either increase thought, than which we know of no problem more nice and difficult in its solution. But we believe that this end can always be more fully attained by a rigid adherence on the part of a translator to the vernacular of the tongue into which his translation is made than by the importation and accommodation of idioms and locations alien to the language in which he writes.

Mr. Wight, we infer, has either altered his theory of translation or has unconsciously improved considerably in the practice of the art: for, in the volume before us he has rendered these beautiful lectures of the French philosopher into very readable and generally very idiomatic English.

These lectures, we need not say, were first delivered more than thirty years ago; and, though for a time, as their author confesses, possessing scarcely any influence beyond the Quartier Latin of Paris, they have, in conaexion with other philosophical teachings, filled the whole world with the name and fame of their author. From the day when Abélard, taking his place on the mount and in the gardens of Ste. Geneviéve, expounded the philosophiand systems of his age before three thousand scholars, or at the Oratory of the Paraclete, and, later still, at St. Gildas, in Brittany, delivered his far-famed prelections on the truths of Holy Writ, as analyzed by the logic of Aristotle, no teacher of philosophy has enjoyed a popufarity equal to that of Victor Cousin; and when we remember that these lectures on intellectual philosophy were accompanied by contemporaneous courses under Guisot and Villemain, we may well doubt whether France or any other country has ever exhibited an era so remarkable for its literary activity and spirit of inquiry; and, contrasting this period with the comparative slugess and subjection of the French mind at the pre sent day, are we not warranted in asserting, with Cousin himself, that in France democracy will always traverse liberty by bringing all right into disorder, and through this disorder opening the way to dictatorship in the Government and passive servitude and indifference in its subjects?

In no country have the doctrines of an abstract philosophy exerted so controlling an influence on the destiny of the people as in France. Philosophy, which in other mations has been cultivated more as a species of gymnastie for the exercise of the logical faculty, has been taught Em France as "the last word of all true knowledge." The passion for abstractions, for "pure ideas," as they are called, has become a trait almost as characteristic of the thinking masses in France as are gayety and levity of the nation at large. It would be difficult to exaggerate the influence of Des Cartes on the minds of his countrymen. The Dissertatio de Methodo and the Meditationes de Prima

Philosophia created a sensation in France of which few at this

We have, it is true, neither Homer, nor Dante, nor Mil-The Dissertatio de Methodo and the Meditationes de Prima day form to themselves any adequate idea. Cartesianism was rapidly infused into the very heart of the people edisring as it did the very language and literature of the nation, penetrating the cloisters of Port Royal, transfusing itself into the sermons of Fénélon and Bossuet, and tincturing sometimes the racy letters of the charming De Sévigné and the fables of the inimitable La Fontaine

Sir James Stephen, in his admirable "Lectures on the Mistory of France," traces with great learning and ability the influence of Des Cartes in forming the habit of the French mind. Especially does he dwell at great length and with great force on those "provisional doubts" from which Des Cartes essays to start in the pursuit of all true knowledge. This disposition to regard nothing as known until it has been verified by consciousness or experience lies at the basis of that prevalent skepticism which has subsequently swamped the mind of the French people in the Serbonian bog of a mocking infidelity. He it was who first introduced what Sir James calls the "Pyrrhonic succession" in France. We do not adopt all the conclusions of the English lecturer as to the Cartesignism of Pascal; but of the general accuracy of his statement concerning the influence of Des Cartes on the

subsequent thinkers of France we entertain no doubt.

To Cartesianism in France succeeded the sensational philosophy of Locke, as more fully developed by Condillac. Condillac, indeed, first pushed the system of Locke to its legitimate conclusions. We make little scruple in of mother Angelique Arnaud and mother Madeleine de St. Joseph; the language which Molière continued to founder himself. Nor is this the only case in which the speak and which Bossuet preserved to his latest breath. Racine speaks that of Louis XIV. and the women who French have succeeded in improving upon the labors of English thinkers; they are, in fact, the great popularizers of abstract science. And in this connexion it would be easy to trace the progress, or, as we would call it, the descent from Condillac to Bonnet, and from Bonnet to Melvetius, and from Helvetius to d'Holbach, and from d'Holbach to d'Alembert, and from d'Alembert to Diderot and Voltaire, and the whole tribe of encyclopedists, and from the encyclopedists to the French revolution and the reign of terror. Then it was that the sensational philosophy was "popularized" with a vengeance, which these excepted, we maintain that the French school equals wreaked itself upon itself in a glut of blood. Society was reduced to anarchy in the name of philosophy, and a painted harlot was worshipped as the goddess of Reason in the name of Religion.

After the French Revolution it was attempted to resource the doctrines of Condillac. The empirical philosophers, nothing daunted by the results of their teachings, made a new stand for their principles at the little town of Auteuil, not far from Paris. Auteuil soon became the four of what was called ideology. Here Cabanis, "with After the French Revolution it was attempted to refayer of what was called ideology. Here Cabanis, "with scalpel in hand," showed how the ganglia and the brain secreted thought, morals, and religion as naturally and regularly as the ears secrete wax. Here Garat lectured, quam rations barbarus.

and olney wrete, and Destutt de Tracy organized the system of ideology, with its doctrines, or rather its cold nections. These were the men who for a time brought pheophy into disrepute in France, until literature was insiled in its place, and that too the literature of the was a Christianity in Art." nilled in its place, and that too the literature of he was a Christian; he is Christianity in Art." feng and sentiment, instead of the literature which lasted and mocked and thrust out its tongue. Instead of oltaire and Diderot and Volney, came St. Pierre and Cheaubriand and de Staël. French men and French ween who had laughed together over Candide now we over Paul and Virginie. The Génie du Christianism sulanted the Eacyclopédia in the popular heart if not inte popular mind.

new school of doctrinaires in philosophy soon after riplanted by Royer-Collard, to whom succeeded Maine deliran, the most original, beyond all question, of the maters of French psychology. To de Biran succeeded Cosin himself, the founder of Eclecticism, "the last

asword in all science. 'e have on another occasion sketched the salient featus of Eclecticism, and traced the process of its formatiounder the hand of M. Cousin. There are those who carsee no beauty nor symmetry in the system with whih Cousin has identified his name. To such, Eclecticisnis nothing more or better than the syncretism of the Alexndrian school of philosophers, a congeries of fragmens rather than a well-ordered and homogeneous strucike te Parthenon of old, combining the venerableness of aniquity with the grace and freshness of a modern building. For our own part we hesitate not an instant to let I. Cousin pick out all our system for us. We adopt with M. Cousin himself as he deals with others : we appropriete from his teachings whatever we deem true, we reject whatever we deem false or unsound.

The compilation before us contains the "abridged but exact expression" of Cousin's convictions on the fundamental points of philosophic science. Under these three heads, the True, the Beautiful, and the Good, Cousin embraces the whole doctrine of psychology, asthetics, ethics, natural right, public law, and even theodicea, "that perilous rendezvous," as he terms it, where so many systems have been shattered by rocks or swallowed up from their own nothingness.

The lecturer commences with a genial and discrimina tive eulogium on Des Cartes as the founder of all modern philosophy, to whom it owes the spirit that animates it and the method that constitutes its power. Two periods the form that gives so much of the value, the case may be are distinguished in the Cartesian era: one in which the method of De Cartes, from its newness, was often misconceived; the other, in which the true Cartesian spirit and method were more consistently and fully followed. er diminution—the whole thought, and nothing but the To the first belong Malebranche, Spinoza, and Leibnitz; to the second, the philosophers of the eighteenth century. The great schools which again divide the eighteenth century are those of England, France, Scotland, and Germany; that is to say, the schools of Locke, Condillac, Reid, and Kant. Among these various and jarring schools Cousin presents himself as a mediator and pacificator. He sides, by turns, with Locke, with Reid, and with Kant. Abandoning all the exclusive sides by which these systems repel each other, he adopts from them, as he thinks, all the truths which they contain, and by which they establish their claim to be considered as partial representatives of intellectual science. The conciliation of these truths in a point of view more elevated and more extended, and their incorporation in a system which shall be capable of containing them in harmony, and of completing and explaining them, form what is called Eclec-TICISM, "the philosophy of the nineteenth century."

Now, philosophy, in all times, as Cousin declares, turns upon the fundamental ideas of the true, the beautiful, and the good. The idea of the true, philosophically developed, is psychology, logic, metaphysic; the idea of the good is private and public morals; the idea of the beautiful is sesthetics and literary or artistic criticism.

Without presuming to follow the lecturer through all these categories, we shall pause for a moment in admiration at his critiques on French art in the seventeenth century. If "Divine philosophy" were as "harsh and the crabbed as dull fools suppose" it to be, according to the verse of Milton, the reproach will hardly be deemed to lie against any thing that M. Cousin has written in this department of letters, and least of all will any thing dry stockholders for having afforded their engineers ample

have the least notion that she reckons in her annals perhaps the greatest century of humanity, that which embraces the greatest number of extraordinary men of every kind. When, I pray you, have politicians like Henry IV, Richelieu, Mazarin, Colbert, Louis XIV. been seen giving each other the hand? I do not pretend that each of them has no rival, or even no superiors. Alexander, Casar, Charlemagne, perhaps excel them. But Alexander has but a single contemporary that can be compared with him, his father Philip; Casar cannot even have suspected that Octavius would one day be worthy of him. Charlemagner is a colored in the description of the contemporary in the colored in the him; Charlemagne is a colessus in the desert;* while among us these five men succeed each other without an interval, press upon each other, and have, thus to speak a single soul. And by what officers they were served!*

What other time, at least among the moderns, has ton, nor even Tasso. The epic, with its primitive sim-plicity, is interdicted to us. But in the drama we scarcely have equals. * * Let us dare to say that, in our opinion, Æschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, together, do not equal Corneille; for none of them has known and expressed like him what is of all things most truly touching, a great soul at war with itself between a generous assion and a duty. Corneille is the creator of a new to the ancients and to all moderns bepathetic unknown to the ancients and to all moderns before him. He disdains to address common and subaltern passions; he does not seek to rouse pity and terror, as Aristotle demands, who limits himself to erecting into maxims the practice of the Greeks. * * Shakspeare, we admit, is superior to Corneille in extent and richness of dramatic genius. * * But if Corneille has less imagination, he has more soul; less varied, he is more profound. The scenes that he gives are less heartrending but the control of the second selected and sele ing, but at once more delicate and more profound. What is the melancholy of Hamlet, the grief of King Lear, even the disdainful interpldity of Casar, in comparison with the magnanimity of Augustus striving to be master of himself as well as the universe, in comparison with Chimene sacrificing love to honor, especially in comparison with Pauline, not suffering even at the bottom of her heart an involuntary sigh for one that she must not love?

Of Racine he discourses as fellows: "Racine was not born to paint heroes, but he does paint, and that admirably, man with his natural passions, and the most natural as well as the most touching of all, love. * * Corneille speaks the language of statesmen, soldiers, theologians, philosophers, and clever women; of Richelieu, Rohan, Saint Cyran, Des Cartes, and Pascal; were the ornaments of his Court. Thus spoke, I suppose, Madame, the amiable, sprightly, and unfortunate Henriette; thus wrote the author of the *Princesse de Cleves* and the author of Telemaque."

Molière, La Fontaine, and Boileau are next passed in admiring review, after which the mitic proceeds to expatiate on the French painters of the Seventeenth Century who are worthy of a place by the side of these poets, philosophers, and orators:

"We bow with respectful admiration before the school or surpasses all others. We prefer neither Murillo, Ru-bens, Corregio, nor Titian himself to Lesneur and Pousor surpasses all others. We prefer neither Murillo, Ru-bens, Corregio, nor Titian himself to Lesueur and Pous-sin, because, if the former have an incomparable hand and color, our two countrymen are much greater in the Gas Company is estimated at \$50,000. thought and expression.

* We may almost apply to Charlemagne the words of the Latin author in speaking of Maroboduus: natione

Poussin is the theme of M. Cousin's exalted eulogy in several pages of glowing criticism which we cannot transcribe. Claud Lorrain and Philip de Champagne are next extolled in terms of well-deserved admiration one a landscape painter without rival, the other the equal of Van Dyke in the faithfulness and life of his portraits. The engravers, sculptors, and architects of this same century are also called up by M. Cousin to receive the meed of praise which envious time has seemed to grudge them.

METROPOLITAN RAILROAD.

Messes. Gales & Shaton—Gentlemen : Feeling a deer well in all philosophy," as philosophy is said to be the interest in the prosecution and completion of this werk, which I conceive is calculated to promote the les interests of Washington, I have anxiously looked ever every number of the Intelligencer as it has arrived for some notice in regard to it, either editoria or communicated, of a character to attract public attention but, with the exception of the report of its President FRANCIS Dodgz, Esq., nothing of the kind has appeared for several months. And permit me here to repeat question I have frequently asked myself and others, which ture. To others again this body of metaphysical and I am desirous to have solved: Can it be possible that the psychlogical doctrine seems a very palace of truth, inhabitants of Washington are so much engrossed tith politics and their own private concerns as to prevent them giving a thought or making a single move towards securing and ensuring the construction of a road whose to avow ourselves Eclectics, but we are not quite willing | very name, the "Metropolitan," leading as it does to their beautiful city, the metropolis of the Union, should arouse his method without adopting all his philosophy; we deal feelings of pride and pleasure in the breast of every ba triotic individual in your community, particularly as it must be obvious, I think, that the completion of his work will add more than any other now contemplated (the water-works not excepted) to the improvement and prosperity of your city, as will be seen by the forthcom ng report of the acting Chief Engineer, Mr. GRANT? As for yourselves, Messrs. Editors, I know that you time is constantly occupied in attending to your private duties and in your laudable endeavors to point in the proper direction, so as to enlighten the public mind.

matters of a national or local character; and this very position of yours, gentlemen, has caused me to look to you, more than to any others, for words of encouragement in aiding by your powerful influence and the reasons that you are so capable of assigningwhy and where fore the necessary subscription to carry out the work should be made without delay; for, without such aid, it is to be feared that the work cannot be prosecuted. But, on the other hand, if only a moderate subscription, say from three to five hundred thousand dolars, is made by your Corporation, the road can be made to the junction with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad inone year. Then if Frederick and Washington counties really desire it to be extended to Hagerstown they will at mce evince their sincerity by the amount of their subscriptin; and, should that be satisfactory, such extension can be effected in one year more; all of which is extremely desirable, and should be accomplished if possible. Connecting as it will at that point with all the great internal improvements of Pennsylvania, and extending to the Lakes, I undoubted ly would be of great public as well as private interest, and at the same time a stock that will pay handsome di-vidends. But if all this will not induce the citizens of in the way of subscription, it would be unresonable in them to require others to construct the roat for them. Put your own shoulder to the wheel," said Fercules to the wagoner. Now, if they will not do that when the road is completed to the junction, then I say they do not deserve aid; and such, I believe, would be the conclusion of the enlightened members of the Legisature of Maryland, who I feel confident would in such in event release the company from the obligation of proceduling the road beyond that point if they desire it. The last suggestions are made not with any desire that the road should stop short of Hagerstown, but to show the citi-zens of Washington that they risk nothing in making a liberal subscription to the Metropolitan Railroad. The stock in any event will pay handsomely in my opinion; but if it should stop at the junction with the Baltmore and Ohio Railroad, or even at Frederick City, it wil probably be as good an investment as could be made it any

is the candid opinion of your friend and a stockholler in METROPOLITAN. P. S. Permit me to add that I have passed over a considerable portion of the route adopted and now being located by the engineers, and it occurs to me that the or didactic be found in the genial disquisition on art as time to examine and by actual surveys to determine the contained in the tenth lecture of the present volume. We quote at length for the entertainment of our read- and the engineers themselves are deserving of the highers. If we mistake not, however, they will find the Frenchman no less than the philosopher in the following citations:

"France, careless of her glory, does not appear to have the least notion that she reckons in her annuls perover the eastern route.

similar work in the Union, and will, I feel confident, re-

deem all expenditures on it in less than ten years. Such

[The above is from an esteemed and zealous friend of the Metropolitan Railroad, a work in which we should be very sorry if the interest we feel were measured by the frequency of our recent notices of it. We concur fully and sincerely in all that our respected correspondent says of its importance, and we hope to see our city authorities lend to it the aid which the work is entitled to expect at the hands of the Corporation of Washington. The forthcoming report of the Chief Acting Engineer will, with the late excellent first report of the President of the Company, show that the work is fortunate in the selection of its officers .- EDITORS.]

The editor of the Columbus Enquirer speaks of a natural curiosity in Decatur county, (Ga.) We are told it consists of what is called the Blowing Cave, at the mouth of which a suspended handkerchief will be blown outwards during portions of the day, and as forcibly in-wards during the remaining portions of the twenty-four hours. These alternating breezes are supposed by some to be connected with the tides of the ocean, on account of their blowing one way or the other, as the tide ebbs

AN UNHEARD-OF OUTRAGE. - We learn that on last even-An UNILABO-OF OUTRAGE.—We learn that on last evening the house of Mr. Abernathy, an old gentleman residing in Colerain township, near Adelphia, (Ohio,) was entered by three ruffians, who seized and tied the old man fast in bed. The old lady was very decrepid, and the only remaining person about the house was a widowed grand-daughter. One of the villains took her by the throat, and threatened her life if she did not tell where their money was executed. their money was secreted. She confessed where two or three hundred dollars belonging to her was hid. They took this and a certificate of deposite on the Valley Bank, some hundred or more, and robbed the old man of all he nad, which is said to have been between six and seven thousand dollars. Mr. Abernathy was known to be a man of money, and it was said kept much secreted about his house. He is eighty-one years of age.

[Chillicothe Gazette, 19th.

RELIGIOUS SECTS IN VIRGINIA .- The Richmond (Va. Christian Advocate says that there are in Virginia 89,805 Baptists; 92,645 Methodist Episcopalians; 12,700 Methodist Protestants; 5,447 Episcopalians; 12,884 Old School Presbyterians; 2,256 New School Presbyterians: making a total of 215,269. Of the Baptists there are it Eastern Virginia 44,000 colored members.

The number of buildings destroyed by the late fire at Lowell (Mass.) is about twenty-two, and the total loss \$30,000. The buildings were occupied by about one nundred families, mostly Irish.

FRIGHTFUL CASUALTY. - The large new building of the Manhattan Gas Company, on Fourteenth street, New York, fell down on Saturday afternoon with a tremendous burying a large number of workmen in the ruins The unfortunate victims were rescued as soon as possi-ble, and ten were found to be severely injured, three dead, and a number of others slightly injured. The names of the killed are Cornelius Wykoff, master mason,

Patrick Sheer, and James Gilhooley.

The building was 150 feet wide by 180 long, one story

COLLISION ON LAKE ONTARIO.—The propeller Boston Capt. McNett, was run into by a schooner on Friday night last, off Oak Orchard, and sunk. She went down in fifteen minutes after being struck. The propeller had a full cargo of flour, pork, wheat, and corn, and was owned by the Ogdensburgh Railroad Company. The passengers and crew, twenty-five in number, arrived at the mouth of the Genesee river about nine o'clock on Sa-turday evening, having been on the lake in an open boat nearly twenty-four hours.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1854.

IN SENATE. The PRESIDENT of the Senate laid before the body a communication from the Secretary of War, accompanied by reports on the improvement of the Brasos river, Texas, and the surveys of Georgetown harbor, South Carolina, and the Savannah river, from Savannah to Augusta, in the State of Georgetom

the State of Georgia.
On motion by Mr. RUSK, it was ordered to lie on the table and be printed.
On motion by Mr. SEWARD, the Senate proceeded to

consider the amendments of the House of Representatives to the bill to provide for the accommodation of the courts of the United States in the district of Massachusetts. Mr. TOUCEY explained the amendments made by the House, which were to add the cities of New York, Philalelphia, and Baltimore; and the bill was further amend-

ALEXANDRIA AND WASHINGTON RAILROAD.

The Senate took up for consideration the amendments of the House of Representatives to the bill authorizing the extension of the Alexandria and Washington Railroad, consisting of an additional section authorizing the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to construct a road from the Washington branch of their road, at such point from the Washington branch of their road, at such point as may be most convenient, to some point on the Potomac river opposite or near to Alexandria, and to construct such depots and piers as the Corporation of Washington and the President of the United States may respectively consent to; also, to construct such a bridge over the eastern branch of the Potomac as may be necessary, provided the same shall not obstruct the navigation thereof; this line to form a connexion with the lines of milesely this line to form a connexion with the lines of railroad running south of Alexandria.

Mr. BRIGHT moved to disagree to the amendment.

Mr. COOPER favored the motion. Mr. PRATT argued in, favor of the amendment. Mr. BROWN moved to lay the bill on the table, on the ground that it was leading to debate and to the consumption of time. Lost—Yeas 14, nays 28.

Mr. BADGER thought it would be better to postpone

the bill until next December.

Mr. MASON would rather have time for more mature Mr. TOUCEY spoke against the amendment of the

Messrs. DAWSON, PEARCE, and PRATT sustained the amendment, when the question was taken on con-curring in the amendment of the House, and it was deided in the negative by the following vote:

cided in the negative by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Benjamin, Dawson, Geyer, Jones of Tennessee, Morton, Pearce, and Pratt—7.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Allen, Atchison, Badger, Bayard, Bell, Bright, Brown, Butler, Cass, Chase, Cooper, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Evans, Fessenden, Fish, Fitzpatrick, Foot, Gillette, Gwin, Houston, Hunter, James, Mallory, Mason, Norris, Pettit, Rockwell, Rusk, Sebastian, Seward, Shields, Slidell, Staart, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Toucey, Wade, Walker, and Weller—41.

The bills received from the House of Representatives.

The bills received from the House of Representatives were read by their titles and appropriately referred. BILLS PASSED.

The following Senate bills received from the House with amendments were concurred in :

A bill to provide compensation for the services of Geo. Morrell in adjusting titles to lands in Michigan.

A bill for the relief of Phineas M. Nightingale, administrator of the estate of Gen. Nathaniel Greene,

HOUSE BILLS PASSED.

The following bills from the House of Representatives were considered and passed, on motion by different Senators, without the formality of a reference:
A bill for the relief of William G. Smith.

Joint resolution giving one hundred and sixty acres land to Francis M. Gwin, of Indiana. A bill to revive the act approved March 3, 1823, and the act approved May 26, 1824, supplemental thereto, in reference to the Rio Hondo claims to land in Louisiana.

A bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to pay John Charles Fremont for beef furnished the California A bill for the settlement of the claims of W. P. Buckner

and Pierce Crosby, passed midshipmen in the United States navy.

A joint resolution for the relief of John A. Bryan.

RIVER AND HARBOR BILL. An unsuccessful effort was made by Mr. MASON to go

into Executive session.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the unfinishd business of yesterday, being the bill from the House of Representatives making appropriations for the repair, preservation, and completion of certain public works heretofore commenced under the authority of law. As it came from the House, the second section of the bill

War, before expending any part of the money herein appropriated, shall, in such cases as he may think the public interest requires it, cause a re-examination and re-survey of the public works hereby appropriated for; and he is hereby authorized to modify the present plan if in his opinion the public interest will be materially herefield thereby.

following: "And if, on such re-examination and re-survey, the said

"And if, on such re-examination and re-survey, the said Secretary shall be of opinion that a cession of the jurisdiction over the place occupied or to be occupied by any of said works is required from the State in which any work is situated to the United States, or if there shall be, in his opinion, any other sufficient reason for doing so, he is hereby authorized and empowered to suspend the application of any appropriation contained in this act; and in such case he shall report to Congress, at its next seasion, the fasts and reasons on ropriation contained in this set; and in successe it is said re-ort to Congress, at its next session, the facts and reasons on which his action may be founded, in order that Congress may ake such further action as the subject may, in the discretion take such further action as the of Congress, seem to require." Numerous amendments had been offered and rejected

The one immediately pending was to insert after the word "so" the words "arising from the condition and circumstances of any particular work or works herein provided for, as shown by such re-survey or re-examina-

This amendment received only ten affirmative votes against thirty-two nays.

Mr. TOOMBS moved to amend the amendment of the

ommittee by inserting after the word "so" the words "except a want of constitutional power to appropriate money for the particular object suspended;" which was agreed to, as follows:

agreed to, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Badger, Bayard, Benjamin, Brown, Chase,
Clayton, Dawson, Fessenden, Fish, Foot, Geyer, Gillette,
Hunter, Jones of Tennessee, Mason, Morton, Pearce, Rockwell, Seward, Shields, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Allen, Atchison, Cass, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Douglas, Evans, Fitspatrick, Johnson, Mallory, Norris, Rusk, Sobastian, Slidell, Thomson of Now Jersey, Toucey, and Walker—18.

Mr. STUART then moved to strike out from the amend-

ment the words "said Secretary," and insert "President of the United States;" which was agreed to: Yeas 23, The question was next on the amendment as amended

which was very elaborately argued by Messrs. SEWARD, STUART, BENJAMIN, CLAYTON, TOOMBS, THOMP-SON, of Kentucky, DAWSON, CASS, MASON, PETTIT, PRATT, BAYARD, and others. The question was then taken, and decided in the negative, as follows:

YEAS-Mesers. Atchison, Benjamin, Cass, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Johnson, Norris, Pettit, Pratt, Rusk, Sebastian, Slidell, Stuart, and Walker—14. NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Allen, Badger, Bell, Brodhead,

NAYS—Messrs. Agams, Allen, Badger, Bell, Brodhead, Brown, Butler, Clayton, Cooper, Dawson, Douglas, Evans, Fessenden, Fish, Fitzpatrick, Foot, Geyer, Gwin, Houston, Hunter, James, Jones of Tennessee, Mallory, Mason, Morton, Pearce, Rockwell, Seward, Shields, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Toombs, Toucey, Wade, and Weller—35. Several efforts were made to adjourn and to postpone the subject until next session; but all were alike voted

Mr. RUSK moved to amend the bill by inserting an appropriation of \$44,000 for the improvement of the Brasos river, in the State of Texas; which was rejected: Year

24, nays 24.

Mr. GWIN submitted an amendment appropriating Mr. Gwin succept an amendment appropriating \$50,000 for a survey of the harbors of Santa Barbara, Monterey, San Francisco, and other places in California. Mr. TOOMBS gave notice of his intention to discuss the bill upon its merits. Hitherto he had touched incidentally on amendments; but now he would discuss the

constitutionality, policy, &c. of the measure, and neither the time of the Senate nor any other consideration should prevent him from expressing his views.

On motion, the Senate adjourned, after having been in session from eleven in the morning until forty minutes over four P. M.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Journal of yesterday having been read-

the Senate for the relief of the legal representatives of Major Caleb Swann, deceased, stating that he distinctly objected in Committee of the Whole to the reporting of that bill to the House.

After considerable conversation—
The SPEAKER stated that the effect of the motion, i agreed to, would be to send the bill back to the Commit-tee of the Whole. The question was then taken on the motion of

Mr. FENTON stated that had he been present yester-day when Mr. ELIOT, of Massachusetts, moved to suspend the rules to enable him to introduce a bill to repeal the fugitive slave law, he would have voted in the affirmative. He was necessarily absent from the House, attending to business at the Executive Departments. Mr. CULLOM said that he was confined to his room

yesterday, and for several preceding days, by severe in-disposition. Had he been in his place yesterday when the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Elior) made his motion to suspend the rules he should have voted in the

negative.
Messrs. READY and SMITH, of Virginia, also stated that they would have voted in the negative on the motion of Mr. Elior, had they been present yesterday when the

MAIL STEAMER APPROPRIATION BILL. On motion of Mr. HOUSTON, the House went nittee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. Committee of the whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. English, of Indians, in the chair,) and proceeded to consider the bill making appropriations for the transportation of the United States mail by ocean steamers and otherwise during the fiscal year ending the 30th of June. 1855.

Mr. OLDS moved to amend the bill by striking there-

from the following:

"That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby directed forthwith to give the notice provided in the first section of the act entitled 'An act to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, approved the twenty-first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, to terminate the arrangement for the additional allowance for the transportation of the United States mail between New York and Liverpool, in the Collins line of steamers, as therein provided."

Mr. OLDS said that he made this motion not because he was in favor of continuing the increased compensation allowed the Collins line by the last Congress, but because his own construction of the statute was that Con-gress could not give the notice to terminate the arrangement for this additional allowance until the 31st December, 1854. The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads some time since reported a bill, not only to give this notice to the Collins line, but to abolish all the contracts for transportation of the mail by ocean mail steamers, and to relet the same in accordance with the usages and regulations appertaining to the inland mail service. He hoped, therefore, that his motion would be agreed to, and at the next session the bill to which he had just referred could be taken up and acted upon. The Govern-ment would lose nothing by this course, as the compensation for the present year must be paid, and they wo get rid of any doubtful construction of the statute.

Mr. SKELTON opposed the motion of Mr. Olds, being in favor of the notice preposed in that portion of the bill moved to be stricken out, for the reason that almost the entire deficiency in the postal service of the United States arose from the extraordinary compensation paid ocean steamers for the transportation of the mails. By termi-nating the contract with the Collins line the people could have cheap ocean postage at the rate of two cents, which would pay all the expenses for the transportation of the mail across the Atlantic. The interests of the country demanded that this contract should be abolished. Mr. MORRISON moved to strike out the word "forth-with" in that portion of the bill embraced in the amend-ment of Mr. Olds, which he said would enable the Secretary of the Navy to give this notice at a legal time.

Mr. WALBRIDGE concurred with Mr. Olds that the
Government had no power at this time to terminate the

contract with the Collins line, and spoke of the advantages of that line.
The amendment of Mr. Morrison was then rejected. Mr. MACE expressed his surprise that only five minutes debate was allowed on a question of so much importance to the country at large, and hoped that whenever the bill

to abolish the present ocean mail steam service should come up full discussion would be allowed. Mr. CLINGMAN opposed the motion of Mr. Olds, and moved to add to the part proposed to be stricken out the

following:
"Provided, further, That the President shall endeavor, by treaty or otherwise, to induce the British Government to abandon, in a similar manner, the subsidy paid to the Cunard line, in which event the Postmaster General is instructed to with ocean steamers for the transportation of the mail."

Mr. JAMES C. ALLEN said that if gentlemen

would look to facts and figures, as they appeared on re-cords within their reach, no one who regarded the postal interests of the country could for one moment favor the continuance of this line. Each trip cost the Government \$27,658 more than the Government received in the way

f postage.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Maine, trusted that the com mittee would take no measure to suspend the contract Mr. McQUEEN followed on the other side, contending

last Congress, but did not think it would comport with good faith to take such a step at this time. The Committee on Commerce reported an amendment, adding to that portion of the section quoted above the sels, said he believed it was universally admitted that that these steamers could not be converted into war ves they were the swiftest steamships in the world, and not only the swiftest, but the strongest. They were stronger and better constructed than any war vessel that floated.
He had it from the lips of a very distinguished officer of the navy (Commodore Perry) that the steamers of the Collins line were better adapted for vessels of war than any other steamers that floated. That officer had told him that, if he had the choice of any vessel as a war steamer, he would take one of these. It had been cursteamer, he would take one of these. It had been cur-rently reported that the Emperor of Russia and the Em-peror of France had both made applications to the Col-lins line for the purchase of one of their steamers for war purposes; but this was declined by the company, on the ground that these vessels were virtually at the com-mand of the United States for war purposes at any time, and it was therefore not in their power to dispose of them He did not know whether this rumor was true, but merely

mentioned it that those gentlemen who did know migh say whether or not it was correct.

say whether or not it was correct.

The debate was continued at considerable length, when the amendment of Mr. CLINGMAN was rejected.

The question was then taken on the motion of Mr. OLDS, and it was decided in the negative: Ayes 70, noes 72.

Mr. HAVEN moved to amend the first line of the clause which the committee just refused to strike out, by striking out the word "forthwith," and inserting, in lieu there. of, "immediately after the 31st day of December, 1854." He contended that the notice could not be given before

that time.

Mr. HOUSTON replied; when the question was taken and the amendment was agreed to: Ayes 82, noes 61.
Other amendments were offered, but the following was

the only one adopted:

"That the arrangements now subsisting for the transportation of the mails from New York to Liverpool, and from New York, via Southampton, to Bremen; from New York, New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Havana, and Chagres and back, and from Panama to California and Oregon and back, and from Panama to Havana and back, be terminated as soon as in the opinion of the Postmaster General it may be done consistently with the public interest; and that the Postmaster General shall give notice of such termination accordingly: Provided, That, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Navy and the Attorney General of the United States, the same may be done without the violation of any contract now lawfully binding upon the United States; and that the transportation of the mails on these lines be let to the lowest responsible bidders, after public advertisement."

The committee rose and reported the bill to the House,

The committee rose and reported the bill to the House, when the amendments made in committee were agreed to, and the bill was read the third time and passed.

TEXAS CREDITORS. Mr. ORR moved to suspend the rules to enable him to submit a motion to take up from the Speaker's table Senate bill to provide for the payment of such creditors of the late Republic of Texas as are comprehended in the act of

Congress of September 9, 1850.

Pending which the House adjourned.

MONDAY, JULY 31, 1854.

IN SENATE.

The following memorials and petitions were prese nd appropriately referred:

By Mr. SUMNER: From Elijah D. Brigham, asking ermission to change the name of a vessel, and that a gister be issued under the name of the "Wizard." By Mr. WELLER: From J. C. McFenan and Samue

D. Sturgiss, officers of the army, asking compensation for services rendered by them respectively in grades higher than that to which they belonged. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES. Mr. FOOT, from the Committee on Public Lands, re-ported the following resolution on the memorial of Charles Gordon, and asked its immediate consideration, which

Revolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to pay to Charles Gordon, out of the contingent fund of the Senate, the sum of \$1,500, it being for his services as draughtsman for the Senate from March 3d, 1839, to January 1, 1840.

Millson by yeas and nays, and it was decided in the negative: Yeas 63, nays 84.

FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

Mr. FENTON stated that had he been present yesterday when Mr. Elior, of Massachusetts, moved to suspend the rules to enable him to introduce a bill to repeal the

Mr. R. asked the immediate consideration of the amend nents; which were read, when
Mr. BRIGHT desired that their consideration be post-

poned until to-morrow, in order that he might have time to investigate them; and the subject was postponed ac-Mr. SHIELDS, from the Committee on Military Affairs

reported back the following House bills without amend-ment, and severally recommended their passage: An act for the relief of David C. Cash and Giles U.

An act for the relief of William Hankins.

An act for the relief of Lieut. George H. Paige, of the

An act for the relief of Lieut. George H. Paige, of the United States navy.

An act authorising the Secretary of the Treasury to settle the accounts of Thomas Jordan, assistant quartermaster in the United States army.

Joint resolution for the relief of Brevet Capt. J. H. Lendrum, of the United States army.

Joint resolution for the settlement of the claim of Don

Joint resolution for the settlement of the claim of Don Juan Jesus Virgil, of New Mexico.

Mr. SUMNER, from the Committee on Pensions, to which was referred House joint resolution directing the acting officers of the Treasury to adjust the account of Wm. Woodbury, late pension agent at Portland, Maine, reported the same without amendment, and asked its immediate consideration; and the resolution was read a

third time and passed.

Mr. ALLEN, from the Committee on Pensions, to which was referred the bill for the relief of John S. King, of Virginia, reported it back without amendment, and recommended its passage.

Mr. MASON moved to proceed to the consideration of

Executive business, but the motion was defeated by the YBAS-Messrs. Allen, Atchison, Brodhead, Butler, Clay,

Douglas, Evans, Fessenden, Fitzpatrick, Gwin, Houston, Han-ter, Mallory, Mason, Morton, Rockwell, Rusk, Toombs, and Touccy-19. NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Bayard, Bell, Benjamin, Bright, Brown, Chase, Clayton, Cooper, Dawson, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Fish, Foet, Geyer, Gillette, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Jones of Tennessee, Pettit, Pratt, Sebastian, Seward, Slidell, Stuart, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey, Wade, Walker, and Weller—31.

Mr. HOUSTON gave notice that he should move that when the Senate adjourn it be to meet at half-past ten o'clock, as he desired to make an explanation of matters of some importance to himself. He thought the Senate would accord so much to him, as it would not interfere with the time of the Senate. Some Senators would come that early in the morning; or, at all events, the reporters

would be present.

The Senate acceded to the wishes of Mr. Houston. Mr. SEWARD, from the Committee on Pensions, to which was referred House bill for the relief of Betsy Nash, reported it with an amendment, and asked its immediate consideration. Permission was given, and Mr. S. explained the bill, which was to give a pension to a widow

f an officer of the war of 1812.

The amendment struck out ten years and inserted five, so as to limit the provision to that period. The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS moved to amend the bill by adding that for the relief of James C. Batchelder, who was killed while in the discharge of his duty by a mob in the city

Mr. SEWARD asked the yeas and nays on the amend-

ment; which were ordered.

Mr. FOOT called for the reading of the report in the case of Betsy Nash; and after that was read—

Mr. SUMNER called for the reading of the report of the Committee on Pensions on the case of Batchelder, and the views of the minority dissenting therefrom sign-

and the views of the minority dissenting therefrom sign-ed by Messrs. Sumner and Saward.

This took up much of the time of the Senate.

Mr. STUART moved to postpone the further consideration of the subject until next session; which motion was defeated, as follows:

was defeated, as follows:
YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Atchison, Bayard, Bell, Bright, Cass, Chase, Clayton, Dodge of Iowa, Geyer, Gillette, Rockwell, Stuart, Sumner, Wade, and Walker—16.
NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Benjamin, Brodhead, Brown, Butler, Clay, Cooper, Dawson, Dodge of Wisconsin, Douglas, Evans, Fessenden, Fish, Fitzpatrick, Foot, Gwin, Houston, Hunter, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Jones of Tennessee, Mallory, Mason, Morton, Pearce, Pettit, Pratt, Rusk, Schastin, Seward, Slidell, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey, Toombs, Toucey, and Weller—36.

Mr. SEWARD then addressed the Sanata against the

Mr. SEWARD then addressed the Senate against the amendment, and the subject was debated at large by Messrs. SEWARD, WELLER, CASS, and STUART, when the question was taken on agreeing to the amendment offered by Mr. Adams, and it was decided in the affirma-

Mr. McQUEEN followed on the other side, contending that the Collins company had not carried out their contract with the Government.

Mr. BANKS believed that the Government had the right to give the notice to terminate the arrangement for the additional allowance given to the Collins line by the last Congress but did not think it would company with

NAYS-Messrs. Bright, Chase, Cooper, Fessenden, Fish, Mr. SUMNER then moved a proviso that the fugitive

slave law be and the same is hereby repealed.

This was ruled out of order, and a brief discussion en sued on points of order. The question was then taken on the passage of the bill

as amended, and it was decided in the affirmative, as YEAS-Messrs, Adams, Atchison, Bayard, Bell, Benjamin, Brodhead, Brown, Butler, Cass, Clay, Cooper, Dawson, Dodge of Iowa, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Geyer, Gwin, Houston, Hunter, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Jones of Tennessee, Mallery, Marson, Morton, Norris, Pearce, Petiti, Pratt, Rusk, Sebastian, Slidell, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey,

Toombs, Toucey, and Weller—37.

NAYS—Messrs. Bright, Chase, Fessenden, Fish, Foot, Gillette, Rockwell, Seward, Stuart, Sumner, Wade, and Walk-So the bill was passed. REPEAL OF THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

Mr. SUMNER, in pursuance of notice, asked leave to introduce a bill to repeal the fugitive slave law.

Here points of order were raised and discussed with nuch earnestness.

The question of Mr. Sumnen was ruled out of order by

the Chair, from which he appealed.

Mr. BENJAMIN moved to lay the appeal on the table;
and it was decided in the affirmative: Yeas 36, nays 9.

The question then recurred, "Shall the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Sumner) have leave to introduce the bill?" and the question was taken by yeas and nays and decided in the negative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Chase, Dodge of Wisconsin, Fessenden, Foot, Gillette, Rockwell, Seward, Sumner, Wade, and Walk-

r—10. NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Atchison, Bell, Benjamin, Bright, Brodhead, Brown, Butler, Cass, Clay, Cooper, Dawson, Dedge of Iows, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Geyer, Gwin, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Jones of Tennesses, Mallory, Mason, Morton, Norries, Pearce, Petiti, Pratt, Rusk, Sebastian, Sjidell, Stuart, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey, Toombs, Toucey,

BOMBARDMENT OF SAN JUAN. A message was received from the President of the Uni-ted States, transmitting copies of all correspondence and orders in relation to the bembardment of Greytown; which as referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed.

It was four o'clock when the message was read, and

the documents were immediately taken to the Printer. IMPROVEMENT OF HARBORS AND RIVERS. The river and harbor bill was then taken up; when Mr. TOOMBS addressed the Senate against the bill, and denying the constitutional power of Congress over harbors and rivers.

Mr. BELL followed in favor of the bill, and the debate was continued earnestly by Messrs. DOUGLAS, BENJA-MIN, WELLER, PETTIT, DAWSON, MALLORY, CASS, PRATT, TOUCEY, BUTLER, MASON, JONES, of Ten-

nessee, and others.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. Gwis, to appropriate \$50,000 for the improvement of harbors and rivers on the Pacific coast, and decided in the affirmative: Yeas 25, nays 23.

Mr. PRATT moved that the Senate adjourn, as he con sidered the bill already killed. Mr. BROWN asked to be allowed to move an amendment, authorizing the Secretary of War to contract for the purchase of Grant's Pass, between Mobile and New

Mr. B. sustained his amendment at some length; and

the question having been taken by yeas and nays, it was decided in the negative: Yeas 13, nays 31.

After some remarks from Messrs. BROWN, WELLER, and JOHNSON— Mr. BROWN, who had changed his vote, moved to reconsider the vote rejecting his amendment; but the Senate refused to reconsider.

Mr. BRODHEAD moved an amendment appropriating \$5,000 for the improvement of the piers at Marcus Hook, in the Delaware; but it was rejected.

Mr. DAWSON moved an amendment appropriating mo-

pay to Charles Gordon, out of the contingent fund of the Senate, the sum of \$1,500, it being for his services as draughtsman for the Senate from March 3d, 1839, to January 1, 1840.

Mr. ADAMS, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported a joint resolution for the settlement of the claims of the late firm of C. M. Strader & Co., mail contractors.

Mr. BUSK, Toom the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported a bill to establish certain additional Post Roads, reported a bill to establish certain additional